



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Malibu, CA	Accident Number:	LAX05CA285
Date & Time:	09/01/2005, 1027 PDT	Registration:	N2686Z
Aircraft:	Bellanca 7ECA	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Analysis

The airplane experienced a partial loss of engine power and the pilot ditched in the ocean. While en route over the ocean on a fish-spotting mission, the pilot noticed a decrease in engine power. The pilot's scan of the cockpit gauges revealed no anomalies, with the exception of a slight rise in oil temperature. As the pilot maneuvered the airplane toward land, the oil temperature continued to rise and he heard a loud "bang" followed by a vibration. Engine oil began to cover the windshield and the airplane continued to lose altitude. With the engine still running, the pilot ditched the airplane in the ocean about 5 miles from the coastline. The airplane sank to the ocean floor, about 1,200 feet underwater.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: a partial loss of engine power for undetermined reasons.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(PARTIAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Occurrence #3: DITCHING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Findings

2. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	48
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:	4500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 4450 hours (Total, this make and model), 288 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 45 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bellanca	Registration:	N2686Z
Model/Series:	7ECA	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-C1
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ ,
Temperature:		Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Camarillo, CA (CMA)	Destination:	Camarillo, CA (CMA)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	
Latitude, Longitude:	33.958889, -118.821389		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Zoe Keliher	Adopted Date:	12/20/2005
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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